

## BIKE TO METRA

*Your guide to bike commuting  
to and from the Schaumburg area  
Metra Stations*





I can't wait to  
change out of  
this suit!

**Bike to Metra Guide**

Project Update  
CMAP, 2/13/14



*Thanks to Richard Bascomb  
and the Village of  
Schaumburg  
for the project support!*

Cycling to Metra can be a pleasant and convenient commuting option. Benefits include:

- Reducing the stress of finding vehicle parking
- Saving money on gas and parking fees
- Parking closer to the trains
- Starting the day with physical activity and a mental boost
- Playing a part in helping the environment

*This brochure offers you tips on how to begin bicycle commuting.*



### LEGEND

The map suggests on-road routes and off-road trails for cycling to Metra stations.

**Preferred On-Road Bike Routes**  
 More Comfortable  
 Less Comfortable

**Off-Road Bike Routes**  
 Trails  
 Sidewalks

**Other Symbols**  
 Metra Station  
 Difficult Intersections

#### ABOUT THIS MAP

This map identifies on-road routes and off-road trails for cycling to Metra and exploring the community. The roads shown in the network are rated using three relative levels of cyclist comfort and are geared to adults who have at least a moderate level of traffic tolerance. Other cyclists may choose alternate routes appropriate for their abilities. As much as possible, roads with lower traffic volume and speed, ample width, and fewer stop signs are identified as preferred routes. Though some streets are less than ideal, local cyclists judged them as the best available in the area.

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER: Illinois traffic laws (625 ILCS 5/11-1502) apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists shall be subject to all rules applicable to drivers of a motor vehicle. This map is published as an aid to bicyclists by the Village of Schaumburg, Illinois and is not intended to be a substitute for a person's use of reasonable care. The Village of Schaumburg, Illinois makes no express or implied warranty as to the safety or condition of the roads indicated to bicyclists for shared bicyclist/motor vehicle use. The unpredictable change of traffic, road, and weather conditions will require the bicyclist to constantly re-evaluate all routes for suitability. Thus bicyclists using the map ASSUME ALL RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES for their own safety when cycling on the routes indicated on this map.

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### SCHAUMBURG METRA STATIONS

#### Notes from Schaumburg

We distributed them via

- our Metra station
- local bicycle shops
- township library branches
- the high school
- recreational/park district centers
- retail outlets
- municipal properties
- our website
- our quarterly newsletter (80,000 circulation)
- e-newsletter (5,000 weekly recipients)
- cable access channel
- water bills
- LIB's website

*Anika often combines cycling with Metra. She tunes pianos and rides around the region with her tools. Some days she pedals a 30 mile round trip. On others she uses a Metra assist.*

#### SELECTING AND PREPARING A BICYCLE

Find a bike that's affordable and can withstand the weather. Position your seat and handlebars for a comfortable fit. Make sure your bike is tuned up with fully inflated tires, working brakes, and smooth shifting gears. A bike shop can help you adjust the bike and find accessories, such as a helmet, lights and a lock. Consider installing fenders, as well as baskets or panniers.

#### FINDING A ROUTE

Plan your trip by using this map or asking other cyclists for advice. Look for streets with low traffic and speeds, good lane width, and stoplights at busy intersections. If the sidewalk is the only viable option, reduce speed, pay extra attention at intersections, and yield to pedestrians. Do a test ride to learn roughly how much time your trip takes, including locking the bike.

#### SECURING YOUR BIKE

The Village of Schaumburg provides free bicycle locker rental at the Schaumburg Metra Station in addition to the approximately 20 covered bicycle parking racks located there. All that is required is a \$25 key deposit which is returned to you at the end of the one-year lease period if the agreement is not renewed. The \$25 is refunded when you return the key.

Schaumburg also has many bike racks. When locking your bike:

- Look for a spot that is well lit, covered, and near activity.
- Use a high quality U-lock to secure the frame and at least one wheel to the rack, if possible.
- Consider using an extra lock to fasten your rear wheel to the bike frame.
- Secure any removable items on your bike, or take them with you.
- Whenever possible, use a bike rack. No trees or street furniture, please!

#### STAYING SAFE

- Follow all signs and signals.
- Ride to the right in the direction of traffic.
- Be predictable and ride in a straight line whenever possible.
- When passing parked vehicles, watch for opening doors.
- Ride in single file, or, conditions permitting, no more than two abreast.
- Use a helmet, bright clothes and front and rear bike lights.
- Never assume a driver sees you. Try to make eye contact.

Cyclists fare best when they act safe and are treated like others on the road! For more information on safe riding and bike laws, see [www.bikelib.org/safety-education/adults](http://www.bikelib.org/safety-education/adults).

#### KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Cycling does not require specialized clothing. Many people simply wear their regular outfits, while others change at their destination. If carrying clothes, roll them to minimize wrinkles. Use an ankle strap to protect pant legs from the chain, or install a chain guard. Another option is to bring a week's supply of clothes to work. If concerned about sweat, ride at a leisurely pace or plan to freshen up at your destination. Some offices have showers; health clubs are another option. Learn more about balancing biking and professional attire at [www.bikelib.org/maps-and-rides/bike-commuting](http://www.bikelib.org/maps-and-rides/bike-commuting).

#### STICKING WITH IT

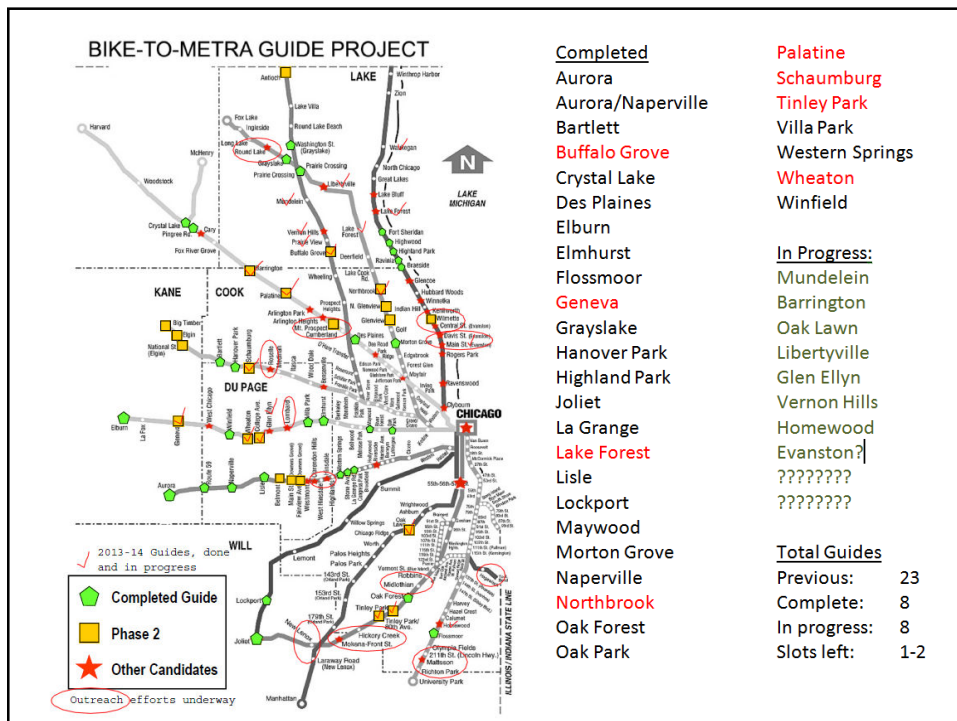
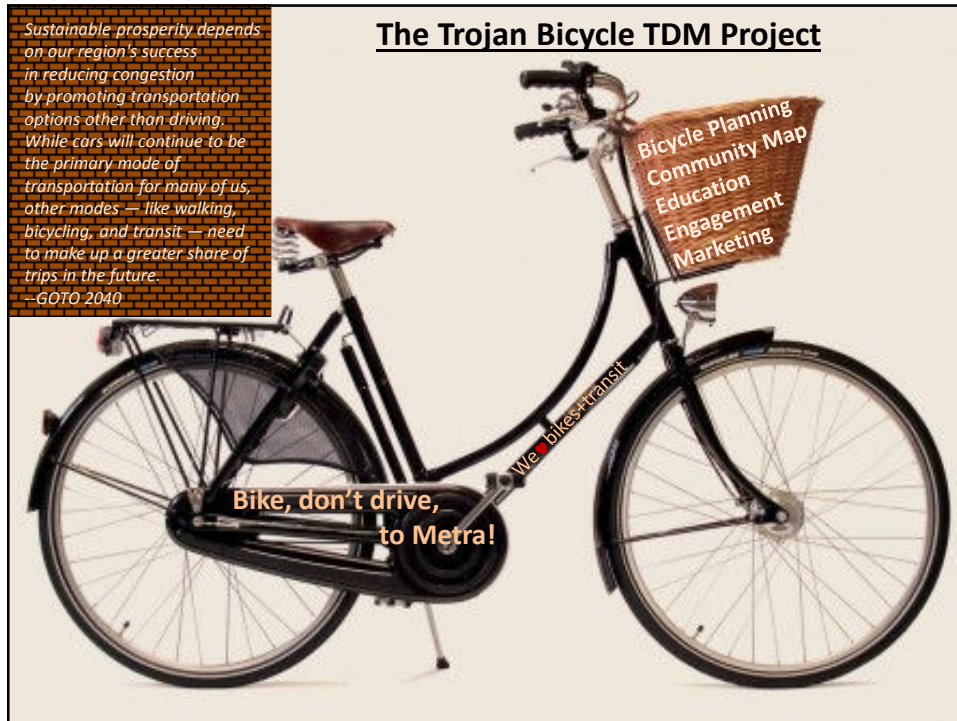
It can take a few days—and some logistical experimenting—to gain comfort and confidence with bike commuting. You might be sore at first if you have not been in the saddle for a while. Don't give up! Over time, you will likely settle into a routine, become more accustomed to riding in traffic, and discover how easy and fun a two-wheeled commute can be.

### But Wait, There's More!

The guides provide:

- Basic safety, comfort, and logistical cycling tips
- Information about bringing bikes on Pace and Metra
- Information about Divvy (next batch)

*I am running out of different helmets to wear. (LIB staff acts as back up models.)*





## Starting Line

\$96,000	Creation of Metra Guides for at least 16 stations (breakdown of cost per station at right)	\$2,900	League of Illinois Bicyclists' effort in determining and mapping preferred routes
		\$1,600	Graphic design and photography
		\$1,100	Printing of 7,500 – 10,000 guides
		\$400	League of Illinois Bicyclists' effort in municipal coordination, pamphlet design, and production
		<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>Total per Metra Station (\$1200 local match), for 16 stations</b>
<b>\$96,000</b>	<b>Project Total</b>		

## Next Steps

- Complete
- Promote
- Evaluate
- Report
- Expand



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